Why People Leave

Find the conditions that drive migration.

6.C.3.4.A "Define push factors of migration (e.g., instability, conflict, natural disasters) using historic or contemporary examples (e.g., European colonization, political or religious asylum seekers)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the condition at home that pushed people to leave in each of the four examples. Circle the words that show people moved.

Reasons to Leave Home

1 Imagine packing a bag because staying home has become dangerous or impossible. A **push factor** is a condition at home that drives people to leave. It is different from a pull factor, which attracts people to a new place. In the 1840s, a disease destroyed much of Ireland's potato crop. Many families lost a main source of food, and a severe famine followed. More than a million people left Ireland during the famine years. Some travelers hoped to find jobs elsewhere, but first they needed to escape a worsening crisis at home.

2 A push factor can also come from human actions. In 2011, protests in Syria grew into a long civil war. Fighting damaged homes, schools, and hospitals, while many people faced threats of violence. Millions of Syrians left the country and sought safety in places such as Turkey and Lebanon. Some families crossed a border to escape the fighting. They could choose a destination based on where they might find safety, but the violence gave them a reason to leave home.

3 Nature and government rules can push people out, too. In 2022, heavy rains flooded large areas of Pakistan. Water destroyed homes and farmland, forcing many people to leave their villages for safer places within the country. Centuries earlier, some English religious dissenters left England for the Netherlands because they faced punishment for worshiping outside the official church. These journeys happened centuries apart and had different causes. In one case, people moved within their country; in the other, they crossed a border.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What condition in Ireland pushed many people to leave in the 1840s? Explain how it affected families.

2. What was the push factor for the Syrians described in the passage? Give one detail that shows why people left.

3. What pushed people in Pakistan to leave their villages in 2022? Did they have to cross a national border to move?

4. What condition in England pushed some religious dissenters to move to the Netherlands?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a realistic situation not described in the passage in which a person or family moves because of a push factor. In three sentences, describe the condition at home, where they move, and why that condition is a push factor rather than a pull factor.

ANSWER KEY

Why People Leave

GRADE 6 · 6.C.3.4.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the condition at home that pushed people to leave in each of the four examples. Circle the words that show people moved. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What condition in Ireland pushed many people to leave in the 1840s? Explain how it affected families.	**Disease destroyed much of the potato crop, causing food shortages and a severe famine that pushed families to leave.**
2	What was the push factor for the Syrians described in the passage? Give one detail that shows why people left.	**Civil war was the push factor. Fighting damaged homes, schools, and hospitals, and people faced threats of violence.**
3	What pushed people in Pakistan to leave their villages in 2022? Did they have to cross a national border to move?	**Floods destroyed homes and farmland. The people described moved within Pakistan, so they did not cross a national border.**
4	What condition in England pushed some religious dissenters to move to the Netherlands?	**They faced punishment for worshiping outside England's official church.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the only factory in Ari's town closed, Ari's mother lost her job. Their family moved to another town to look for work. The factory closing was a push factor because it made life harder at home, while possible jobs in the new town attracted them.

Accept answers that identify a condition at home and explain how it drove people to move. For Part 3, the example must differ from those in the passage and distinguish a push factor from an attraction at the destination.